

Holy Family Catholic Primary School

Disability Equality Scheme

Mission Statement

Our school is part of the Holy Family parish, and we see it in family terms. We aim to develop our children's all round potential in a happy, secure and disciplined environment. To achieve this we are committed to a partnership of parents, staff, governors and the whole Christian community. Our school is founded on faith in Jesus Christ and his teachings and we accept the guidance of the Catholic Church in establishing this foundation.

In all things, love.

Disability Statement

At Holy Family Catholic Primary School we are committed to ensuring equality of education and opportunity for disabled pupils, staff and all those receiving services from the school. We aim to develop a culture of inclusion and diversity in which people feel free to disclose their disability and to participate fully in school life. The achievement of disabled pupils and students will be monitored and we will use this data to raise standards and ensure inclusive teaching. We will make reasonable adjustments to make sure that the school environment is as accessible as possible. At Holy Family Catholic Primary School, we believe that diversity is a strength, which should be respected and celebrated by all those who learn, teach and visit here.

The Disability Equality Duty (DED)

Definition of disability

The Disability Discrimination Act 2010 (DDA) defines a disabled person as someone who has 'a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial or long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities'.

The DDA 2010 has also extended the definition of disability as follows:

People with HIV, multiple sclerosis and cancer (although not all cancers) are deemed disabled before they experience the long-term and substantial adverse effect on their activities.

Section 18 has been amended so that individuals with a mental illness no longer have to demonstrate that it is "clinically well-recognised", although the person must still demonstrate a long-term and substantial adverse effect on his/her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

Check list for school staff and governors

- ☒ Is information collected on disability with regards to both pupils and staff? Is this information used to improve the provision of services?
- ☒ Is pupil achievement monitored by disability? Are there any trends or patterns in the data that may require additional action?
- ☒ Are disabled pupils encouraged to participate in school life? How is this shown through representation in school events such as class assemblies and the school council?
- ☒ Is bullying and harassment of disabled pupils and staff monitored and is this information used to make a difference?
- ☒ Is disability portrayed positively in school books, displays and discussions such as circle time and class assemblies?
- ☒ Does the school take part in annual events such as Deaf Awareness week to raise awareness of disability?
- ☒ Is the school environment as accessible as possible to pupils, staff and visitors to the school? Are open evenings and other events which parents or carers attend held in an accessible part of the school?
- ☒ Is information available to parents, visitors, pupils and staff in formats which are accessible if required? Is everyone aware of this?
- ☒ Are procedures for the election of parent governors open to candidates and voters who are disabled?

The Duty

The Disability Discrimination Act 2010 places a general duty on schools, who need to have due regard for the following when carrying out their functions:

Promoting equality of opportunity between disabled people and other people;
Eliminating discrimination that is unlawful under the DDA;
Eliminating harassment of disabled people that is related to their disability;
Promoting positive attitudes towards disabled people;
Encouraging participation in public life by disabled people;
Taking steps to meet disabled people's needs, even if this requires more favourable treatment.

This is also known as the Disability Equality Duty (DED) and applies to all disabled pupils, staff and those using services provided by schools.

The Disability Equality Duty (DED)

Monitoring

To meet the Disability Equality Duty, it is essential that aspects of school life are monitored to identify whether there is an adverse impact on children and young people with disabilities. The following should be monitored:

Achievement of pupils by disability

Disabled staff (including numbers, type of disability and satisfaction rates in staff surveys etc.)

Additional implications for schools

The role of a school as a service provider

Schools have additional implications as a service provider to make their buildings accessible when they hire out rooms or parts of the building.

Contact with parents and carers

When providing newsletters and information for parents and carers, schools should make this information available in an accessible format so that parents or carers who may be, for example, visually impaired, can access the information.

Additionally, events for parents and carers such as open evenings, meetings with teachers, should be held in accessible parts of the building.

Hiring transport

School staff will need to be aware of Section 6 of the Act when hiring transport as it puts new duties on transport providers, including the bus and coach companies, and the taxi and private hire car trade. The requirement to provide accessible vehicles is extended to include these transport providers. Bus companies will not be able to refuse a job because, for example, it may take longer to pick up disabled students.

The Disability Equality Duty (DED)

Election of parent governors

The election of parent governors will now be covered by the DDA 2010, and governors will need to ensure that the procedures for candidates to stand for election and for parents to vote for candidates are accessible to disabled people. However, the result of the election is not covered and disabled candidates will not be able to claim that they were not elected simply because they were disabled. Once a disabled parent governor is elected, the school governing body functions in relation to that parent are covered and the school must ensure that they can participate fully in school life.

Involvement and consultation

It is a requirement that disabled pupils, staff and those using school services should be involved in the production of the Disability Equality Scheme.

Holy Family Catholic Primary School has previously consulted with disabled pupils, staff and service users in the development of our Disability Equality Scheme by:

- Parent Questionnaires
- Pupil Questionnaires
- Discussion at Class and School Council

Making things happen

In order to ensure that action is taken to meet the Disability Equality Duty, Holy Family Catholic Primary School has drawn up an action plan to make things happen, which outlines the requirements of the DDA.
to Each year

Monitoring and reporting

The monitoring of the actions outlined in the action plan will be monitored in accordance with the specified timescales. If any adverse impacts are identified during the monitoring process, the action plan will need to be revised.

The Headteacher will report to the Governing Body the progress of the Disability Equality Scheme and assesses the implementation of the action plan for effectiveness. This report will be used to improve the Disability Equality Scheme and feed into future practice.

For further information, please contact: Holy Family Catholic School SENCO

Aspect of the Duty	Action taken	Monitoring of provision	Action taken
BUILDING: Increasing equality of access for disabled people.	Carpark has marked disabled space Disabled toilet. Wider fire doors to meet DDA act 2010. Replacement of school access doors. Ramp to year 3 and to junior playground.	Review on individual basis	VASCA bid 2023 to provide school with wider fire doors.
ATTITUDE: How do we promote positive attitudes towards disabled people?	RE curriculum and HRSE reflects each individual as unique and special. Website features a disabled child. Links with Park school.	Review books to ensure a variety of representation.	Review future books/posters to ensure people are shown in different ways.
STAFF NEEDS: What steps have been taken to meet the need of disabled people?	Support members of staff with any disability. Support phased returns and flexible contract hours. Induction of new staff to ensure needs are catered for and also to support needs of those with disabilities.	Appraisal – ensuring staff feedback about needs.	Staff CPD – epipens, diabetes, allergies, first aid, defibrillator Review of staff handbook to ensure the DDA is cited.
PUPIL NEEDS:	Support pupils with any disability. Induction of new pupils and parents to ensure needs are catered for and also to support needs of those with disabilities. Circle time and assemblies to promote positive attitudes.	Monitor for incidents of discrimination that is unlawful under the DDA 2010.	Review behaviour and bullying policy